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Title: Need to immediate release of quota of foodgrains to Kerala and strengthen the Public Distribution System.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance that is being faced by our country. Today thousands of women under the banner of Democratic Women's Association are marching towards the Parliament demanding universalisation of the Public Distribution System to provide food security for the country. The UPA Government, at the time of its formation, had given an undertaking in the Common Minimum Programme to strengthen the Public Distribution System and to move towards universalisation of the Public Distribution System, but unfortunately the Government has miserably failed to strengthen the Public Distribution System. In fact, the Government has cut the allotment of rice and wheat to various States and especially to the State of Kerala. The basic food of my State Kerala is rice. Now the Government has reduced the monthly allotment of APL rice to the State of Kerala from 1,13,420 metric tonnes to 21,304 metric tonnes. From April, 2007 onwards there is 82 per cent cut in the allocation of APL rice to the State of Kerala.

Sir, the APL Ration Card strength in Kerala is nearly 50 lakh. For that, a quantity of 1,72,000 metric tonnes is required for issue.

MR. SPEAKER: All these details cannot be given now. You should not read out a huge statement. You have to just raise the issue.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Sir, there is a total shortage of 1,43,888 metric tonnes of foodgrains in the State of Kerala. The open market price of rice is increasing everyday.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow. This is not the way. You are misusing the opportunity.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : No, Sir.

Since there is no proper allocation of rice, the price of rice is increasing and price of one kilogram of rice in Kerala now is about Rs. 23. This has caused huge hardship to the people, especially the women of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Suresh Kurup will associate with this issue.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Sir, it is very essential to increase the allocation of rice to the State of Kerala. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I will not allow this defiance.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It was decided by all the hon. Leaders more than once that five important national or international matters would be allowed to be raised immediately after the Question Hour and rest of the matters would be allowed to be raised towards the end of the day's sitting. I have already allowed 14 hon. Members to raise important matters. Even then nobody is willing to comply with the understanding or agreement rather of the parties.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : One Member parties are not being given the opportunity. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an unfair charge. You have not even chosen to send a notice, but you are making an allegation. It is very easy to make.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Just now you are sending the notice. You are giving lecture to the Chair and not following the rules yourself.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you persuade your comrade to sit down, I cannot allow you. She is going on and on.[R8]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, I am concluding. Sir, I am requesting the Government to give proper allotment of rice to the State of Kerala in view of the food security of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: If I allow every hon. Member to speak for ten minutes, then we cannot have other business.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, this is a very serious issue. I have also given a notice...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very much obliged that you have given notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, I would like to associate...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members from Kerala will associate with this.

...(*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, I would like to substantiate...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the place to substantiate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, you have to satisfy me that your matter relates to the Central Government.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, it is related to the Central Government...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with the Central Government.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, it is related to the Central schemes. Sir, it is related to the Central Government that is why I am raising it.

MR. SPEAKER: How it is concerned with the Central Government?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, if I am allowed to speak for just two minutes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon!

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, the Central Government scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: These schemes are not covering the non-provincial schools of Assam...(*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, please allow me to speak for one minute...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...(*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, please allow me to speak. This concerns the serious food crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: She has said more than that.